

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for collecting payments in a communications system, the method comprising:

5 receiving a request, via a provider of communications services, to provide a product to a user, the request being generated in response to the user detecting information using a pen-like device that generates a signal reflective of the request;

causing information to be transmitted in response to the received request; and

transmitting a request for payment to the provider of communications services.

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2. The method of claim 1 wherein the product includes an information look-up provided by a look-up service, and wherein the request for payment seeks reimbursement for a look-up fee by the look-up service.

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3. The method of claim 2 wherein the request for payment includes a single request for reimbursement for multiple information look-ups.

4. The method of claim 2 further comprising billing the user for the information look-up, wherein the user is billed by the communications services provider.

5. The method of claim 2, wherein the communications services provider batches a series of information look-ups initiated by the user and bills the user at one time for the series of look-ups.

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6. The method of claim 2, wherein the communications services provider batches a series of information look-ups and bills an employer of the user for information look-ups initiated by a plurality of user employees of the employer.

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7. The method of claim 1, wherein during causing, the information is transmitted from a look-up service to the user's pen-like device.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the product is chosen from the group consisting of goods and services.

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9. The method of claim 8, wherein the request includes an order to purchase the product from a vendor, and wherein the provider of communications services reimburses the vendor for a purchase by the user.

10. The method of claim 8, wherein the provider of communications services bills the user for the user's purchase from the vendor.

11. The method of claim 8, wherein the provider of communications services bills the user for the user's purchase from the vendor in a single billing statement which also invoices communications services.

12. The method of claim 1 wherein the product includes both an information look-up provided by a look-up service and at least one item chosen from the group consisting of goods and services, and wherein during transmitting, a look-up service transmits to the communications services provider a request for reimbursement of a look-up fee, and a vendor of the item transmits to the communications services provider a request for reimbursement for the item.

13. A method for collecting payments in an communications system, the method comprising:

receiving a request at a look-up service to provide an information look-up to a user, the request being generated in response to the user detecting information using a pen-like device that generates a signal reflective of the request;

causing information to be transmitted from the look-up service to the user; and

billing an entity other than the user, a fee for the information look-up.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein the entity other than the user is a communications services provider who provides a communication link between the user and the look-up service.

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15. The method of claim 14, wherein the communications services provider bills the user for the information look-up.

16. The method of claim 13, wherein during billing the look-up service sends a request
10 for reimbursement to an organization with whom the user is affiliated.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the organization is an employer of the user.

18. The method of claim 16, wherein during billing, the look-up service bundles a series
15 of payment requests for individual information look-ups, and transmits the bundle directly to the organization in a single request for reimbursement.

19. A method for collecting payments in a communications system, comprising:
receiving a request for mapping information corresponding to a position of a digital pen on

digital paper, the position corresponding to a service offered by a network operator;

retrieving the mapping information;

sending the mapping information to the digital pen; and

collecting a payment from the network operator for retrieving the mapping information.

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20. The method of claim 19, wherein the received request includes both an identification for the digital pen and coordinates indicative of the position of the digital pen on the digital paper.

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21. The method of claim 19, wherein the mapping information includes a uniform resource locator (URL) of the network operator.

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22. The method of claim 19, said collecting comprising:
billing the network operator for retrieving the mapping information; and
receiving the payment from the network operator.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein the payment from the network operator is a portion of a payment the network operator received from an end user.

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24. A method for collecting payments in a communications system, comprising:
receiving a request for mapping information corresponding to a position of a digital pen on

digital paper, the position corresponding to a service offered by a network operator;

retrieving the mapping information;

sending the network operator an invoice for the retrieving; and

collecting a payment from the network operator for the invoice.

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25. A method for collecting payments in a communications system, comprising:

billing an end user for a service initiated by moving a digital pen on digital paper;

receiving a payment from the end user for the service;

receiving an invoice from a mapping lookup service for retrieving mapping information

10 corresponding to the position of the digital pen on the digital paper; and

sending the mapping lookup service a portion of the payment received from the end user.

26. The method of claim 25, wherein the mapping information includes a uniform

resource locator (URL) of a network operator offering the service that corresponds to the position

15 of the digital pen.

27. A method for collecting payments in a communications system, comprising:

receiving a request for mapping information corresponding to a position of a digital pen on

digital paper, the position corresponding to a service offered by a service provider;

20 retrieving the mapping information;

sending the mapping information to the digital pen; and

collecting payment from the service provider for the retrieving.

28. The method of claim 27, wherein the service provider sends payment to a network operator for access to a communications network.

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29. The method of claim 27, wherein the service provider bills a payment provider for the service offered by the service provider, and the payment provider bills an end user for the service.

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30. The method of claim 29, wherein the end user sends payment to the network operator for access to the communications network.

31. The method of claim 27, wherein the request includes both an identification for the digital pen and coordinates indicative of the position of the digital pen on the digital paper.

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32. The method of claim 27, wherein the mapping information includes a uniform resource locator (URL) of the service provider.

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33. The method of claim 27, said collecting comprising:
billing the service provider for retrieving the mapping information; and
receiving the payment from the service provider.

34. A method for collecting payments in a communications system, comprising:
providing a service for an end user that corresponds to a position of a digital pen on digital
paper;

5 receiving an invoice from a mapping lookup service for retrieving mapping information
corresponding to the position of the digital pen on the digital paper; and
sending the mapping lookup service payment for the invoice.

35. The method of claim 34, further comprising;
10 receiving an invoice from a network operator for access to a communications network; and
sending payment to the network operator for the invoice from the network operator.

36. The method of claim 35, wherein the end user sends payment to the network
operator for access to the communications network.

15 37. The method of claim 34, wherein the mapping information includes a uniform
resource locator (URL) of the service provider.

38. A system for collecting payments in a communications system, comprising:
20 a mapping lookup service operable to retrieve mapping information corresponding to a
position of a digital pen on digital paper in response to a request for the mapping information; and

a network operator operable to offer a service corresponding to the position of the digital pen and bill an end user for the service corresponding to the position of the digital pen, wherein the mapping lookup service collects payment from the network operator for retrieving the mapping information.

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39. The system of claim 38, wherein the mapping information includes a uniform resource locator (URL) of the network operator.

40. A system for collecting payments in a communications system, comprising:
10 a mapping lookup service operable to retrieve mapping information corresponding to a position of a digital pen on digital paper in response to a request for the mapping information;
a service provider operable to offer a service corresponding to the position of the digital pen to an end user, wherein the mapping lookup service collects payment from the service provider for retrieving the mapping information; and
15 a network operator operable to bill the service provider for access to a communications network.

41. The system of claim 40, wherein the mapping information includes a uniform resource locator (URL) of the service provider.

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42. The system of claim 40, wherein the network operator bills the end user for access

to the communications network.

43. A system for collecting payments in a communications system, comprising:

a mapping lookup service operable to retrieve mapping information corresponding to a
5 position of a digital pen on digital paper in response to a request for the mapping information;

a service provider operable to offer a service corresponding to the position of the digital pen
to an end user, wherein the mapping lookup service collects payment from the service provider for
retrieving the mapping information;

a payment provider operable to bill the end user for the service corresponding to the position
10 of the digital pen, wherein the service provider bills the payment provider for the service
corresponding to the position of the digital pen.

a network operator operable to bill the service provider and the end user for access to a
communications network.

15 44. The system of claim 43, wherein the mapping information includes a uniform
resource locator (URL) of the service provider.